

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.(currently amended) A device for processing information in a database, comprising:

a processor configured to:

~~means for selecting~~ select data of the database according to selection criteria,

~~and means for arranging~~ arrange selected data in a representation space provided for the attention of at least one user, the representation space comprising a plurality of positions which can receive data elements that are representative of the selected data,

~~wherein the device comprises:~~

~~means for pre-defining~~ pre-define at least one related representation area within the representation space, formed by activated positions,

~~means for specifying~~ specify at least one data bootstrapping element for each of the related representation areas,

~~means for positioning~~ position the data bootstrapping element at a bootstrapping position in the related representation area corresponding to the data bootstrapping element,

~~means for successively determining~~ determine new data elements from at least a data element already positioned in the related representation area, in accordance with at least one proximity order relation based on contents of the selected data,

~~and means for automatically and successively positioning of~~ position at least a part of the new data elements in the related representation area, at positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned, if these positions are not already occupied by data elements already positioned, the positions of said new data elements being randomly defined by the device for processing information at each user request;

~~wherein the means for selecting data including the means for specifying and the means for successively determining, and the means for arranging including the means for pre-defining, the means for positioning the data bootstrapping element and the means for automatically and successively positioning.~~

2. (currently amended) The ~~information processing~~ device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~means for successively determining and means for automatically and successively positioning are provided~~ processor is further configured to form neighborhood cards centered on the data elements already positioned, each of the neighborhood cards centered on one of the data elements already positioned giving data elements neighboring the data element in accordance with the proximity order relation, and to select the new data elements from the neighboring data elements and to place them in the related representation area corresponding to the data element already positioned at positions neighboring the data element.

3. (currently amended) The ~~information processing~~ device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ~~means for successively determining and means for automatically and successively positioning are provided~~ processor is further configured to place the neighboring data elements at positions relative to the data element in the related representation area, which correspond to the positions relative to the data element of the neighboring data elements in the neighborhood card.

4. (currently amended) The ~~information processing~~ device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ~~means for successively determining and means for automatically and successively positioning are provided~~ processor is further configured to supply the neighborhood cards to representation means for the attention of the user.

5. (currently amended) The ~~information processing~~ device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~means for successively determining are provided~~ processor is further configured to exclude from the new data elements, the data elements already positioned, so as to represent, at the most once, each of the data elements in the representation space.

6. (currently amended) The ~~information processing~~ device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~means for successively determining and means for automatically and successively positioning are provided~~ processor is further configured to determine and position the new data elements ~~as and~~ when there are selections by the user, in the representation space, ~~[[of]]~~ as positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned.

7. (currently amended) The ~~information processing~~ device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~means for successively determining are intended~~ processor is further configured to use, for the proximity order relation, at least one of the relations based on: a number of identical terms in the contents, a number of similar terms for a predefined part of the contents, a difference in dates in the contents, a number of similar graphic patterns in the contents, and a number of similar sound patterns in the contents.

8. (currently amended) The ~~information processing~~ device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~means for specifying are provided~~ processor is further configured to specify a data bootstrapping element according to a user profile.

9. (currently amended) The ~~information processing~~ device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~means for pre-defining the related representation area are provided~~ processor is further configured to allow a user to construct the related representation area.

10. (currently amended) The ~~information processing~~ device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~means for specifying are provided, in case of definition of several related representation areas by the means for pre-defining at least one related representation area;~~ processor is further configured to specify a first data bootstrapping element in one of the related representation areas, then to specify the other data bootstrapping elements from the first data bootstrapping element by ~~means of~~ the proximity order relation.

11. (currently amended) An audiovisual apparatus, comprising:
a selecting unit configured to select data of the database according to selection criteria,
an arranging unit configured to arrange selected data in a representation space provided for the attention of at least one user, the representation space comprising a plurality of positions which can receive data elements that are representative of the selected data,

a pre-defining unit configured to pre-define at least one related representation area within the representation space, formed by activated positions,

a specifying unit configured to specify at least one data bootstrapping element for each of the related representation areas,

a positioning unit configured to position the data bootstrapping element at a bootstrapping position in the related representation area corresponding to the data bootstrapping element,

a determining unit configured to successively determine new data elements from at least a data element already positioned in the related representation area, in accordance with at least one proximity order relation based on contents of the selected data, and

a processing circuit configured to automatically and successively position at least a part of the new data elements in the related representation area, at positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned, if these positions are not already occupied by data elements already positioned, the positions of said new data elements being randomly defined by the device for processing information at each user request

~~a processing device in accordance with the claim 1, the apparatus being preferentially chosen from a television set, a personal digital assistant and a personal computer.~~

12. (currently amended) A method for processing information in a database, comprising:

~~selection of~~ selecting data from the database according to selection criteria,

~~and arrangement of~~ arranging the selected data, in a representation space provided for the attention of at least one user, the representation space comprising a plurality of positions that can receive data elements that are representative of the data,

~~wherein the method comprises:~~

pre-defining at least one representation related area within the representation space, formed by activated positions,

specifying at least one data bootstrapping element for each of the related representation areas,

positioning the data bootstrapping element at a bootstrapping position in the related representation area corresponding to the data element,

successively determining new data elements from at least a data element already positioned in the related representation area, in accordance with at least one proximity order relation based on contents of the data, and

successively positioning of at least a part of new data elements in the related representation area at positions neighboring the positions occupied by the data elements already positioned, if these positions not be already occupied by data elements already positioned, the positions of said new data elements being randomly defined for processing information at each user request,

wherein said ~~selection of~~ selecting data ~~including~~ includes the specifying and successive determining, and the ~~arrangement including~~ arranging includes the pre-defining, positioning the data bootstrapping element and successive positioning.

13. (currently amended) A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing a computer program-product, comprising program code instructions for the execution of which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the method as claimed in claim 12~~-when the program is executed on a computer.~~